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SENATE MEMORIAL 50

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson Beffort

A MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MARY ANN VAUGHN AND DECLARING APRIL
17, 2009 "MARY ANN VAUGHN DAY".

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn is descended from a proud line of
New Mexicans with roots spanning four decades in the state and
more than nine generations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn's descendants include Jacob
Meisser, who fought for Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary
War; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn was born in Yokohama, Japan, on
April 17, 1949, and she was the only daughter of James A.
Vaughn of New Mexico and Vivienne Joy Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Vivienne Wilson and Mary Ann Vaughn were not
permitted to immigrate to the United States due to Vivienne's
Swedish and Mary Ann's Japanese ancestry; and

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1 WHEREAS, James Vaughn appealed to Senator Patrick McCarren
2 of Nevada to introduce private legislation in the United States
3 congress to allow the immigration of Vivienne and Mary Ann; and

4 WHEREAS, on August 5, 1950, congress passed a private bill
5 permitting Vivienne Wilson and Mary Ann Vaughn to immigrate to
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, on the very day her immigration rights were
8 secured, Vivienne Wilson died in Tokyo, Japan, of tuberculosis;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the infant, Mary Ann, was kidnapped by her nanny
11 and held incommunicado in the slums of Yokohama, Japan, and was
12 raised there; and

13 WHEREAS, the family of Vivienne Wilson discovered Mary
14 Ann's whereabouts and sought her custody and extradition to
15 Sweden, their country of residence; and

16 WHEREAS, the case of *Lagerfelt v. Yamaguchi* was brought on
17 Mary Ann's behalf in the name of the king of Sweden in the
18 Tokyo high court in 1956; and

19 WHEREAS, upon prevailing in the lawsuit, Mary Ann remained
20 in the custody of the Swedish ambassador to Japan and attended
21 the American school in Japan, graduating in the 1960s; and

22 WHEREAS, Mary Ann's New Mexico grandparents, Osmar Andrew
23 and Hester Ruby Vaughn of Questa, sought tirelessly to locate
24 her, but to no avail; and

25 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Vaughn, now known as Mrs. Marianne

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1 Kuroda, also sought tirelessly to locate her family of origin
2 in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, after fifty-four years, she located her family of
4 origin from an obituary of her father in the *Albuquerque*
5 *Journal*; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kuroda has finally been reunited with her
7 New Mexico family and roots, and the New Mexico and Tokyo
8 branches of the Vaughn family have now grown together;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the life of Mary Ann Vaughn be commemorated
11 and that April 17, 2009 be declared "Mary Ann Vaughn Day" in
12 honor of her sixtieth birthday; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to Mrs. Marianne Wilson Kuroda (Mary Ann Vaughn) of
15 Kashiwa, Japan, and Mr. Akira Honda, the honorable mayor of
16 Kashiwa, Japan.